Town Report 1900-1901

REPORT OF TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The two important events of the last year in the history of the library were the fifteenth anniversary of the opening of the library, which occurred August 7, and moving into the new library building in November.

We now have a beautiful library home, artistic, modern, and up-to-date in all its appointments, thanks for which are due not only to the munificence of the late Warren G. Roby, but also to the efficient and tireless work of the building committee.

When the time came for moving, the Trustees went before the town at a special meeting, asking for an extra appropriation of $300. This was cheerfully given, and under the direction of one of the trustees the moving was accomplished at the minimum of expense.

The books, as a whole, are in good condition, although many of the standard sets are sadly in need of replacing. Owing to the shortness of funds during the past, we found ourselves completely out-of-date, few books having been purchased of late years. This we have been somewhat enabled to remedy by the purchases just made, and as far as current literature is concerned we are in better shape. We are still woefully in need of up-to-date books of reference, and those books which are needed by the scholars of the public schools, as well as others of our townspeople, who desire to pursue special lines of research and study, and books which they have a right to expect to find in the library. We are endeavoring to get into closer touch with the schools. With the cordial assistance that we are now receiving from the superintendent and teachers we are accomplishing much. One of the first steps taken

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LIBRARY 27

in the new building was to procure a file of magazines for the reading room, and this now seems to be the most attractive feature of the library to many.

A need of the most urgent nature is a classification of the library, bringing it up to the modern ideas and thus fully doubling its usefulness.

The interest taken and the increased circulation since the first of January are noticed with gratification by the Trustees, and the many calls for more open hours at the library we hope to meet within a few weeks.

The rules and regulations appended we have adopted after careful consideration.

Herewith is also the Librarian's report containing statistical information, also a catalogue of the last year's accessions. The Treasurer of Library Fund's report shows an unexpended balance, which is somewhat misleading from the fact that necessary expenses consequent upon moving have been voted, bills for which have not been presented.

In recommending the appropriation of $800 for next year we have taken into consideration the desire of the town to keep the tax-rate down as low as possible, and have asked only for that which is absolutely necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN CONNELLY, *Chairman*,
ARTHUR G. BENNETT, *Clerk*,
CHESTER B. WILLIAMS,
HARRY E. CARSON,
FRANCIS SHAW,
A. S. BRYANT.